In the case of aircraft carrier (ex-Admiral Gorshkov), it is apprehended that some delay may take place in the project due to unforeseen problems. At present, the Russian authorities are seized of the issue of timely delivery of the ship. Payments relating to certain works are negotiable under the contract. Details in this regard would be available only after negotiations are complete. The project is being closely monitored.

An Inter-Governmental Agreement was signed with the Russian Government for licence manufacture of Su-30 MKI aircraft. The year-wise escalation rate which was agreed to between the two countries was valid up to December, 2007. It was agreed to review the rate for subsequent years. Negotiations for finalizing the rate of escalation are in progress.

Light weight force multiplier equipment by DRDO

2347. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRDO is working on a project aiming to equip future soldiers with light weight force multipliers with miniaturized communication and GPS system, etc., akin to the U.S. Army's Land Warriors;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the infantryman at present carries a lot of weight and by reducing it, they can perform better in battle and counter insurgency operations; and

(c) if so, by when the DRDO sponsored project is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is formulating a project, to equip the future soldier with light weight systems. The proposed system will enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the soldiers, and they will perform better.

(c) The objective and scope of project are being discussed with Army. The development time would be about 5 years.

NHRC's suggestions for categorizing certain offences as federal crimes

2348. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has suggested that certain offences should be categorized as "federal crimes" to be handled by only a central agency;

(b) if so, keeping in view the challenges ahead relating to terrorism, drug trafficking, and other organized crimes, having national and international ramifications, Government agree with this suggestion;